REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 - 19 are pending. Claims 11 - 19 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

In a Notice of Allowance dated October 24, 2003, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9.

Additional claims 11 - 19 have been added to cover further aspects of the invention. The accompanying Information Disclosure Statement is being concurrently filed with the Request for Continued Examination.

Applicants respectfully request an Office Action on the merits.

///

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7400 should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Date: January 26, 2003

Mark R. Kendrick

Registration No. 48,468 Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date: January 26, 2003

Roger R. Wise

Registration No. 31,204 Attorney for Applicant(s)

725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2800

Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406 Telephone: (213) 488-7100

Facsimile: (213) 629-1033